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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,652	06/24/2003	Masatoshi Yokota	0754-0192P	1286

2292 7590 09/28/2006

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EXAMINER

HUNTER, ALVIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,652

Applicant(s)

YOKOTA, MASATOSHI

Examiner

Alvin A. Hunter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,7,9 and 11-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,7,9 and 11-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (USPN 5908358) in view of Iwami (JP 2002-078824).

Regarding claim 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11-13, Wu discloses a thermosetting urethane golf ball cover wherein the thermosetting urethane resin composition comprises an isocyanate group- terminated urethane prepolymer and a polyamine compound covering a core having a Young's modulus, also known as modulus of elasticity or stiffness modulus, from about 5000 to 100000 psi, or 34.5 to 689.5 MP, a (See claim 1 of Wu). In table 1, Wu shows examples of golf balls in which bear the cover of the present invention wherein it is shown that the covers have a hardness of 51 to 58 Shore D. From the above, a modulus of at least 102 to 116 MPa would satisfy the applicant's criteria, and therefore, would anticipate the above claims. Wu discloses that the types of polyurethane that may be used are of thermoplastic and thermoset type in which examples of how those types are made. Wu does not limit the polyurethane to having the types of isocyanates disclosed. Wu also established that alicyclic isocyanates, which inherently has color stabilizing characteristics, can also be used to produce thermoset polyurethane (See Column 5, lines 39 through 50). Wu discloses the use of

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4'-diaminodipheynlmethane but does not disclose the polyamine being 3, 3'-deithyl-5,5'-dimethyl-4,4'-diaminodipheynlmethane. Iwami discloses a golf ball having a cover of a polyurethane composition made of a isocyanate group-terminated urethane prepolymer and a polyamine wherein the isocyanate are 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, etc., and the polyamine desired is 4'-diaminodipheynlmethane and derivative thereof where 3, 3'-deithyl-5,5'-dimethyl-4,4'-diaminodipheynlmethane is noted as being a derivative thereof (See Paragraphs 0018 to 0026)). One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the above polyamine as taught by Iwami, within the composition of Wu in order to improve thermal resistance. Further, one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the above isocyanates, taught by Iwami, within the composition of Wu in order to improve weatherability, water resistance, and resilience.

Regarding claims 14-16, Wu through the examples show the cover having a thickness of about 1.3mm (See Table 1).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is (571) 272-4411. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim, can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Alvin A. Hunter, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene Kim", written in a cursive style.

EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER